

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SCSE-00 L-03 TRSE-00 /018 W

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R 301229Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4000

UNCLAS ATHENS 4156

EO 11652 NA

TAGS ETRD GR

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY: REQUEST FOR TAX EXEMPTION ON CERTAIN MOTOR

VEHICLE IMPORTS INTO GREECE BY CHURCH GROUPS

REF (A) STATE 99890, (B) STATE 101523

1. FOLL IS SUBSTANTIVE TEXT OF SUGGESTED REPLY TO CONGRESSMAN BURLESON AND SENATOR ALLEN'S LTRS: GREECE IMPOSES HEAVY BURDENS ON THE IMPORT OF MOTOR VEHICLES. THESE BURDENS INCLUDE DUTIES, OTHER IMPORT TAXES LEVIED SPECIFICALLY ON MOTOR VEHICLES, AND A MONHTHLY CIRCULATION TAX. GENERALLY, THESE TAXES AND DUTIES ARE BASED ON (1) CIF. VALUE. (2) ENGINE DISPACEMENT, (3) HORSE POWER, (4) AGE, AND (5) SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE VEHICLE. IN ANY EVENT, IT IS QUITE TRUE THAT THE IMPORT OF ANEW VAN WOULD BBE VERY EXPENSIE..

2. EXEMPTIONS TO THE PAYMENT OF THESE DUTIES AND TAXES BY RESIDENTS OF GREECE AREE ENJOYED BY MEMBEERS OF CERTAIN GROUPS INCLUDING DIPLOMATS, OFFCIALS OF CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEMBERS OF US ARMED FORCES STATIONED HERE UNDER THE STATUS OF

FORCES AGREEMENT WITH GREECE, AND EMPLOYEES OF CERTAIN REGIONAL FOREIGN COMPANIES ESTABLISHED UNDER GREEK LAW 89, WHO ARE EXEMPTED FROM THE PAYMENT OF IMPORT TAXES AND DUTIES ONLY (NOT FOM CIRCULATION TAXES).

3. WHILE THE EMBASSY IS AWARE OF THIS PROBLEM AS IT CONCERN AMERICAN CHURCH GROUPS, WE HAVE NO LEGAL GROUNDS FOR INTERVENTION. HOWEVER, IF MR. DUMAS WISHES, HE MAY APPLY FOR TAX FREE STATUS TO THE GREEK CUSTOMS WITH DATA CONCERNING HIS VEHILCE, IE PROPOSED DATE OF SHIPMENT AND ARRIVAL IN GREECE, FOB COST, UNCLASSIFIED

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DISPLACEMENT, HORSE POWER.

4. FYI: A TOURIST MAY FREELY CIRCUALTE HIS POV IN GREECE FOR UP TO
ONE FULL YEAR BEFORE RBAD TAXES BECOME PAYABLE AND TWO YEARS BEFORE
PAYMENT OF CUSTOMS AND IMPORT DUTIES AND REGISTRATION WITH THE GREEK
AUTHORITIES BECOMES MANDATORY. IF POV IS RE-EXPORTED WITHIN THIS
PERIOD, NO TAXES OR DUTIES ARE PAYABLE.

STEARNS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CUSTOMS DUTIES, TAXES, IMPORT CONTROLS, AUTOMOBILES, TAX RELIEF
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS04156
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760167-0343
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976045/aaaaadll.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 99890, 76 STATE 101523
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 SEP 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 SEP 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <15 NOV 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY: REQUEST FOR TAX EXEMPTION ON CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLE IMPORTS INTO GREECE BY CHURCH GROUPS
TAGS: ETRD, GR, US, (ALLEN, JAMES B), (BURLESON, OMAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006